

In event of a real food shortage, numerous items might be taken over from the Indian diet, such as roots of sword fern, lady fern, bracken fern, tiger lily and camas. The Indians ate young shoots of the horse-tail rush much as we eat asparagus. They also ate wild onions, Dr. Gunther stated, but only when they were traveling alone.



MISS EASTWOOD ADVOCATES AZALEA RESERVE

MISS ALICE EASTWOOD, Curator of the Academy's Department of Botany, is enthusiastic in her praise of the proposed azalea reserve near Arcata in Humboldt County, which she visited recently with Mrs. Philip Van Horne Lansdale, first contributor to the project.

"This is the largest area of azaleas I have ever seen, and I think the finest stand in California," Miss Eastwood said. "It is an area which is unusual from the botanical standpoint, and by all means should be saved, protected for all time within the state park system."

The Save-the-Redwoods league is treasurer of a fund to preserve this magnificent native azalea garden, to match in equal amount a contribution of the State of California through the State Park Commission.

ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

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MONTGOMERY STREET IN THE EARLY FIFTIES

(From *Annals of San Francisco*, 1855)

The California Academy of Sciences was founded in an office on the west side of this street, April 4, 1853.

(SEE PAGE 2)

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August Announcement

THE REGULAR AUGUST MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in Room 214, SIMSON AFRICAN HALL on WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, August 5, 1942, at 3:30 o'clock. The speaker will be Dr. F. M. MacFarland, President of the California Academy of Sciences, whose subject will be

EARLY DAYS OF THE ACADEMY

ON THE EVENING of the 4th of April, 1853, seven men picked their way over the cobblestones of one of San Francisco's two newly paved streets to an office at what was then 129 Montgomery Street, to discuss the formation of a society for the promotion of science. Those present at this first meeting were Dr. Andrew Randall, Dr. Henry Gibbons, Dr. Albert Kellogg, Col. Thomas J. Nevins, Dr. John B. Trask, Dr. Charles Ferris, and Mr. Lewis W. Sloat, in whose office the meeting was held. Those were stirring days and these were men of action. Without further delay an organization was effected, with Dr. Randall as chairman and Mr. Sloat as secretary, a committee was appointed to draw up a constitution, and the name was decided upon, "The California Academy of Natural Sciences." (This was shortened fifteen years later to the present form).

On May 16, after two meetings in the interim, a constitution and by-laws were formally adopted, the membership, in the meantime, having increased to about twenty-seven. On May 23 officers were elected, Dr. Andrew Randall being confirmed in the office of president to which he had been more informally elected on April 4, and on June 27, 1853, the Academy was legally incorporated. All of the meetings following the first seem to have been held at what is now 622 Clay Street, in the office of Col. Thomas J. Nevins, San Francisco's first Superintendent of Schools.

On July 24, 1856, Dr. Randall was shot by one Joseph Hetherington, who is rather indeterminately characterized in the archives as "a gambler." On July 27 the members of the Academy attended as a group the funeral of their first president. Two days later they no doubt attended more informally the demise of Joseph Hetherington who was hanged by the Vigilantes in the presence of a large and enthusiastic audience.

In the midst of these turbulent events, the minutes of the Academy's meeting of July 28 tranquilly record: "Mr. A. E. Beardslee deposited for the Library, Michaux & Nuttall's North American Sylva; also a pamphlet containing descriptions of new coniferous trees of California." The three-year-old Academy of Sciences was not to be distracted from its purposes by any mere vicissitudes of the times.

Dr. MacFarland has made a particular study of those historic days, and is especially qualified to speak of the men who founded the Academy, and of the early history of the oldest scientific institution in the West.

The public is cordially invited to hear Dr. MacFarland.



APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

NOTICE is hereby given to all CORPORATE MEMBERS that the Council at its meeting, July 17, 1942, approved the applications of Mr. Clement Meighan and Dr. Robert Alway Peers for MEMBERSHIP and Mr. David Holman, Mr. Don Meighan, and Mr. Thomas Meighan for STUDENT MEMBERSHIP in the California Academy of Sciences. If no objection to the election of these applicants be received at the office of the Academy within two weeks after July 30, 1942, they will be considered elected.



INDIANS KNEW THEIR ONIONS

DR. ERNA GUNTHER, Director of the Washington State Museum, Seattle, and a leading authority on anthropology and ethnology of the American Indian, was a recent visitor, in her capacity as a member of the Academy's wartime Committee on Latent Natural Resources.

Author of a book on "Ethnobotany of Western Washington" soon to be published, Dr. Gunther has done extensive research on the uses of plants by the Indians. Her studies suggest various uses to which our native plants may be put in the quest for substitutes for products cut off by the war.

The Indians, we occasionally forget, got along rather well without importing anything at all. Not having hemp, they made rope from the bark or branches of several trees. From willow bark they made the ropes used for harpoon lines in hunting sea-lions, and from the smaller branches of the western red cedar they made ropes used for towing whales. Shredded inner bark of the western red cedar was used for making clothing, and fireweed cotton mixed with mountain goat wool or duck feathers was used for blankets.

The possibility of similar uses of our native plant products today is emphasized, Dr. Gunther pointed out, by the recently publicized use of shredded redwood bark for mixing with wool or other fibers in the manufacture of clothing.